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Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa,.....SEP. 29. 1905.....

DEAR SIR,

I wish to obtain information respecting the derivation of the place-names of Canada—of the names of the villages, towns, cities and of the natural features, such as rivers, lakes, capes, bays, mountains, etc.—and shall be much obliged if you will give me any information that you may possess or can procure, respecting the below-mentioned name and also respecting the names of any other features in the vicinity of your residence concerning which you have knowledge.

In many localities, the older generation is passing, or has passed away, and unless steps are taken to collect this information, it will, in many instances, be too late. In most communities there are persons who take an interest in things of this nature or that have been connected with the early settlement of the locality. If there are any such in your neighbourhood, will you kindly submit this to them.

Below I have indicated the lines along which I desire information and also the commoner derivatives of place-names in Canada :—

(1.) Whether named after a village, town, or city, or natural feature in any other province or country ; if so, the name of province or country in which the original locality is situated.

(2.) Whether named after a person ; if so, the person's name, occupation, spelling of name as rendered by the person and any details of interest respecting him (or her) such as (a) Whether alive or, if dead, approximate year of death ; (b) Whether at any time a resident of the locality and, if so, whether still living there.

(3.) Whether named after a natural feature ; if so, any details respecting the origin of the name as applied to the feature and the geographical position of the latter.

(4.) Whether the town, village or city ever had any other name or names ; if so, at what dates, approximately, and the origin of these obsolete names.

Any information bearing on the above will be deemed a courtesy.

Yours truly,

JAMES WHITE,
Geographer.

Dear Sir The Village Williamstown situated on both sides of River Ausse Kasin about four miles from its mouth at Lancaster where it empties in to the St Lawrence

The Village is upon part of a tract of land granted by the Government to Sir John Johnson in Consideration of his ^{services} to the Government about the Close of the American Revolution and he had a part of it surveyed and laid out in lots for a

Village which he named Williamstown after his father William Johnson who formerly resided in the Mohawk Valley in what is known now as the State of New York and died there a few years before the revolution He appears to have held many positions of trust and responsibility and had a remarkable influence over the various tribes of Indians with whom he was accustomed to trade.

The Village was known amongst the early Scotch settlers by the name of Ballavilleen which is simply Milltown in English and is seldom if ever heard of during the last fifty years. The oldest Church in the Village was built in 1812 and is a Presbyterian one named St Andrews.

There was a Church of a cheap kind in the same place at an earlier date and it was blown down but no one living now can tell anything about it. There is also a Catholic Church built about fifty years ago (My own memory carries me back to that time) it is known as St Mary's.

I know of nothing else that you would want to know. I remain yours very truly

W H Smyth P Esq